

ther the sexual and agamic reproductions are strictly confined to different individuals or generations.

With regard to the other two groups of Annelides in which agamic reproduction has hitherto been observed, namely the Syllidea and the Serpulidea, the question is nearly in the same position.

For these reasons the Society wishes to induce a thorough investigation, in accordance with the present requirements of science, of agamic reproduction and of all the points relating to it in one of the groups of these setigerous Annelides. It therefore offers its gold medal as a prize to any one who shall solve this question in a satisfactory manner, either for one or several species of the group of Naïds (including *Chaetogaster*), or for one or several species of Syllidea or tubicolous Annelides. The memoirs must be accompanied by the necessary drawings, so as to elucidate the points to which the investigations have been specially directed.

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The memoirs in answer to this question must be sent in before the end of October 1873, addressed to Councillor Japetus Steenstrup, Secretary of the Society. They may be written in Latin, French, English, German, Swedish, or Danish. The memoirs must not bear the names of the authors, but must be furnished with mottoes; and each memoir must be accompanied by a sealed packet bearing on the outside the same motto as the memoir, and enclosing the name, profession, and address of the author. The value of the gold medal is stated at 450 francs.

*The Ears of Sea-lions and Sea-bears.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Dr. Peters, in his 'Revision of the Eared Seals' (*Otaria*), used the length of the ears as a subgeneric and specific character; but, as only preserved skins of these seals were to be observed and compared, I had very little faith in the characters taken from those parts, as I know by experience that the variation of the length and size of the ears and the length of the lobes of the fins is produced by the manner of preserving the animals, even by the most careful taxidermists.

In the Zoological Gardens there are now two species living, which are the sea-lion from the Falkland Islands (*Otaria jubata*) and a sea-bear or fur-seal (*Arctocephalus antarctica*) from the Cape of Good Hope. The latter, my granddaughter informs me, has the ears more than an inch long, the ears of the sea-bear being very much more developed and larger those of the sea-lion; but I do not know whether this may be a generic distinction or a specific peculiarity. These remarks are confirmatory of Dr. Peters's observation of the skins; for he describes the ears of the subgenus *Otaria* (*jubata*) as short, 15 or 20 millims., and the ears of his subgenus *Arctocephalus* and some of the other subgenera as longer. Do the elongated palate and the short ears of the sea-lion and the long ears and short palate of the sea-bear characterize the groups?